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EDIC Case No. 28
Control No.
27 March 1958

SUBJECT *DOC Exemption Letter In EUR File*

The Glass Fiber Industry in the Sino-Soviet Bloc

REQUESTING AGENCY AND DATE

Department of Commerce, 25 March 1958

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF INFORMATION

As soon as possible

PROPOSED USE

To complement the review currently undertaken by a Department of Commerce Technical Task Group in order to determine whether glass fibers are of sufficient military-industrial importance to warrant addition to the U.S. Positive List and possibly a recommendation for their inclusion in the International Lists.

REFERENCE

Memorandum to Chairman of EDIC from Department of Commerce representative, 25 March 1958

BACKGROUND

The Department of Commerce is currently reviewing a license application filed by OMNI PRODUCTS CORPORATION of New York (Export Agents for Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company) requesting permission to export 40 tons of glass fiber roving (reduced from an original order of 150 tons) to East Germany. Glass fibers are not now on either the U. S. Positive List or the International Lists, since their predominant use has been in general industrial or in consumer goods. However, there have now been developed a number of highly strategic applications for glass fibers as reinforcing materials in plastic laminates used in the protection of rocket motor bodies as well as in aircraft.

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The superior strength to weight ratio of such glass fiber reinforced plastics reportedly makes them an extremely suitable structural material for such purposes. In view of these new developments in applied glass fiber technology, the Department of Defense has objected to the licensing of the proposed export to East Germany and has suggested that certain types of glass fibers be placed on the U. S. Positive List. The above indicated Commerce Technical Task Group Review is an outgrowth of this Department of Defense suggestion and related Operating Committee action.

ACTION REQUESTED

It is requested that EDIC prepare an intelligence summary setting forth Sino-Soviet Bloc uses and requirements for and supply of glass fibers.

ASSIGNMENT OF PRODUCTION RESPONSIBILITY

CIA is assigned responsibility for this project.


Chairman

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